

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 02239 030446Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 MCT-02 DLOS-09 OES-09
AID-05 /112 W
-----067457 032101Z /75

R 021751Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2758
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 02239

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, RQ
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION ON PUERTO RICO

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 02212 (NOTAL)

1. CHARGE MET TODAY WITH MINEXTAFF PERMSEC BALLAH FOR EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF PUERTO RICO AND CERTAIN OTHER ISSUES. MRS. DE OSUNA, NORTH AMERICAN DESK OFFICER, WAS ALSO PRESENT AND TOOK CAREFUL NOTES.

2. BALLAH, FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT, SAID HE HAD STUDIED THE INFORMATION IN MY LETTER TO HIM OF JULY 31, APPRECIATED OUR POSITION BUT WANTED TO INFORM ME THAT IT IS THE DECISION OF THE GOTT TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION ON PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 QUOTE EXACTLY AS IN THE PAST UNQUOTE. HE MAINTAINED THE USG SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOTT'S ROLE IN THAT BODY HAS BEEN ONE OF QUOTE POSITIVE NEUTRALITY UNQUOTE. IT IS NOT THAT THE GOTT REPRESENTATIVE IS INACTIVE, HE ENDEAVORS TO MODIFY EXTREME POSITIONS, AND CAN ONLY DO THIS EFFECTIVELY IF HE CONTINUES TO BE PERCEIVED AS REMAINING UNASSOCIATED WITH EITHER CAMP. UNITED STATES INTERESTS, HE EMPHASIZED, HAVE BEEN SERVED BY THE ACTIVITIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 02239 030446Z

OF THE GOTT COMMITTEE OF 24 REPRESENTATIVE.

3. I EXPRESSED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOTT'S PAST POSITION, BUT SAID THE SITUATION CURRENTLY DIFFERS FROM PAST AND GOTT VERY WELL MAY FIND IT MUST CAST THE SWING VOTE THIS TIME. I REVIEWED THE ARITHMETIC OF THE VOTING AS IT MAY BE SHAPING UP, ALLUDED TO THE UNFAVORABLE

RESULT OF THE BELGRADE NAM MEETING ON STATUS OF PUERTO RICO ISSUE, AND ASKED THAT IF IT APPEARS VOTE IN COMMITTEE OF 24 IS APPROACHING A TIE THAT GOTT REPRESENTATIVE BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE PROCEDURAL MOTION TO DEFER THE MATTER. I INDICATED SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES AN UNFAVORABLE OUTCOME COULD HAVE FOR PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO AND ON ATTITUDES IN THE UNITED STATES.

4. BALLAH PROFESSED SURPRISE THAT VOTE MIGHT COME THIS CLOSE. HE EMPHASIZED GOTT INTERESTED ONLY IN SEEING THAT PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO FREELY DETERMINE RELATIONSHIP THAT WILL PREVAIL BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THE UNITED STATES. IF THEY WANT INDEPENDENCE, FINE; IF THEY WANT COMMONWEALTH STATUS, FINE; EVEN IF THEY WANT TO BECOME A COLONY, FINE AS LONG AS THAT IS THEIR DESIRE. HE AGREED THERE SHOULD BE NO INTERFERENCE FROM ANY SOURCE, ADDING THAT HE HAD READ THE PRESIDENT'S DECLARATION WHICH I HAD SENT HIM AND QUOTE AGREED WITH EVERY WORD OF IT UNQUOTE. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE GOTT WOULD REEXAMINE ITS PUERTO RICO COMMITTEE OF 24 POSITION TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO IF TRINIDADIAN VOTE APPEARS TO BE BECOMING DECIDING ONE.

5. COMMENT: BALLAH GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION OF SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT OUTCOME OF COMMITTEE 24 VOTE. THE DECISION ABOUT PROVIDING THE GOTT REPRESENTATIVE WITH A RESERVE FAVORABLE (FOR US) VOTING POSITION, OF COURSE, WILL HAVE TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT O 02239 030446Z

BE MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER. I CAME AWAY WITH THE FEELING, HOWEVER, THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD ENDEAVOR TO MAKE A GOOD CASE TO HIM IN FAVOR OF SUCH RESERVE AUTHORITY. O'MAHONY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTO02239
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780318-0984
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808107/aaaadlqw.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7c028b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PORT OF SPAIN 2212
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1560619
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION ON PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PDEV, RQ, TD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c028b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014